

CHAPTER 5

WATER QUALITY PARTNERSHIPS IN THE BARREN RIVER WATERSHED

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5.1. BACKGROUND. The Watershed Approach relies on participation at the federal, state, local and nongovernmental levels to be successful. Two types of partnerships are critical to ensure success:

- Partnerships between agencies
- Partnerships between agencies and landowners

This chapter describes both types of partnerships in the Barren River Watershed. The information presented is provided by the agencies and organizations described.

5.2. FEDERAL PARTNERSHIPS.

5.2.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, provides technical assistance, information, and advice to citizens in their efforts to conserve soil, water, plant, animal, and air resources on private lands.

Performance Results System (PRS) is a Web-based database application providing USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, conservation partners, and the public fast and easy access to accomplishments and progress toward strategies and performance. The PRS may be viewed at <http://prms.nrcs.usda.gov/prs>. From the opening menu, select "Reports" in the top tool bar. You will select the time period that you are interested in and the conservation treatment of interest on the page that comes up. Depending on the time period of interest, you will have various report options to choose from, such as location, reporting period and program involved in the reporting. You may be required to "refresh" the page in order to get the current report to come up.

The data can be used to determine broad distribution trends in service provided to customers by NRCS conservation partnerships. These data do not show sufficient detail to enable evaluation of site-specific conditions (e.g., privately-owned farms and ranches) and are intended to reflect general trends.

Conservation Practice	Feet	Acres	Number
Conservation Buffers	27,067	103	
Erosion Control		111,581	
Nutrient Management		22,003	
Pest Management		19,918	60
Grazing / Forages		6,775	
Tree and Shrub Practices		3,423	
Tillage and Cropping		12,408	
Waste Management Systems			14
Wildlife Habitat Management		3,698	
Water Supply	20,058		24

Table 5-1. Landowner Conservation Practices in Partnership with NRCS in the Tennessee Portion of the Barren River Watershed. Data are from PRMS for October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2005 reporting period. More information is provided in Appendix V.

5.2.B. United States Geological Survey – Tennessee Water Science Center Programs.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) provides relevant and objective scientific information and data for public use in evaluation of the quantity, quality, and use of the Nation's water resources. National USGS water resource assessments include the National Streamflow Information Program (<http://water.usgs.gov/nsip/>), National Atmospheric Deposition Network (<http://bqs.usgs.gov/acidrain>), the National Stream Quality Accounting Network (<http://water.usgs.gov/nasqan/>), and the National Water-Quality Assessment Program (<http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa>). For a national overview of USGS water resources programs, please visit <http://water.usgs.gov>. Specific information on the Upper and Lower Tennessee River NAWQA study units can be found at <http://tn.water.usgs.gov/iten/tenn.html>.

In addition to National assessments, the USGS also conducts hydrologic investigations and data collection in cooperation with numerous Federal, State, and local agencies to address issues of National, regional, and local concern. Hydrologic investigations conducted by the USGS Tennessee Water Science Center address scientific questions pertaining to five general thematic topics:

1. Water Use and Availability,
2. Landforms and Ecology,
3. Watersheds and Land Use,
4. Occurrence, Fate, and Transport of Contaminants, and
5. Floods and Droughts.

In support of these investigations, the USGS Tennessee Water Science Center records streamflow continuously at more than 100 gaging stations, makes instantaneous measurements of streamflow at numerous other locations as needed or requested, monitors ground-water levels Statewide, and analyzes the physical, chemical, and biologic characteristics of surface and ground waters. In addition, the Water Science Center compiles annual water-use records for the State of Tennessee and collects a variety of data in support of National USGS baseline and other networks. More information pertaining to USGS activities in Tennessee can be accessed at <http://tn.water.usgs.gov>.

USGS Water Resources Information on the Internet. Real-time and historical streamflow, water-level, and water-quality data at sites operated by the USGS Tennessee Water Science Center can be accessed on-line at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/tn/nwis/nwis>. Data can be retrieved by county, hydrologic unit code, or major river basin using drop-down menus on the web page. For specific information or questions about USGS streamflow data, contact Donna Flohr at (615) 837-4730 or dflohr@usgs.gov. Recent USGS Tennessee Water Science Center publications can be accessed by visiting <http://tn.water.usgs.gov/pubpg.html>. A searchable bibliographic database is also provided for locating other USGS reports and products addressing specific scientific topics.

5.2.C. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. Sustaining our nation's fish and wildlife resources is a task that can be accomplished only through the combined efforts of governments, businesses, and private citizens. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) works with State and Federal agencies and Tribal governments, helps corporate and private landowners conserve habitat, and cooperates with other nations to halt illegal wildlife trade. The Service also administers a Federal Aid program that distributes funds annually to States for fish and wildlife restoration, boating access, hunter education, and related projects across America. The funds come from Federal excise taxes on fishing, hunting, and boating equipment.

Endangered Species Program

Through the Endangered Species Program, the Service consults with other federal agencies concerning their program activities and their effects on endangered and threatened species. Other Service activities under the Endangered Species Program include the listing of rare species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended: 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and the recovery of listed species. Once listed, a species is afforded the full range of protections available under the ESA, including prohibitions on killing, harming or otherwise taking a species. In some instances, species listing can be avoided by the development of Candidate Conservation Agreements, which may remove threats facing the candidate species, and funding efforts such as the Private Stewardship Grant Program. The federally endangered gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*) occurs in the Barren River Watershed. For a complete listing of endangered and threatened species in Tennessee, please visit the Service's website at <http://cookeville.fws.gov>.

Recovery is the process by which the decline of an endangered or threatened species is stopped and reversed, and threats to the species' survival are eliminated, so that long-term survival in nature can be ensured. The goal of the recovery process is to restore listed species to a point where they are secure and self-sustaining in the wild and can be removed from the endangered species list. Under the ESA, the Service and National Marine Fisheries Service were delegated the responsibility of carrying out the recovery program for all listed species.

In a partnership with the Tennessee Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Division of Natural Heritage, the Service developed a State Conservation Agreement for Cave Dependent Species in Tennessee (SCA). The SCA targets unlisted but rare species and protects these species through a suite of proactive conservation agreements. The goal is to preclude the need to list these species under the ESA. This agreement covers middle and eastern Tennessee and will benefit water quality in many watersheds within the State.

In an effort to preclude the listing of a rare species, the Service engages in proactive conservation efforts for unlisted species. The program covers not only formal candidates but also other rare species that are under threat. Early intervention preserves management options and minimizes the cost of recovery.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service established the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program to restore historic habitat types, which benefit native fishes and wildlife. The program adheres to the concept that restoring or enhancing habitats such as wetlands or other unique habitat types will substantially benefit federal trust species on private lands by providing food and cover or other essential needs. Federal trust species include threatened and endangered species, as well as migratory birds (e.g. waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, neotropical migratory songbirds).

Participation is voluntary and various types of projects are available. Projects include livestock exclusion fencing, alternate water supply construction, streambank stabilization, restoration of native vegetation, wetland restoration/enhancement, riparian zone reforestation, and restoration of in-stream aquatic habitats.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE ...

- Interested landowners contact a Partners for Fish and Wildlife Biologist to discuss the proposed project and establish a site visit.
- A visit to the site is then used to determine which activities the landowner desires and how those activities will enhance habitat for trust resources. Technical advice on proposed activities is provided by the Service, as appropriate.
- Proposed cost estimates are discussed by the Service and landowner.
- A detailed proposal which describes the proposed activities is developed by the Service biologist and the landowner. Funds are competitive, therefore the proposal is submitted to the Service's Ecosystem team for ranking and then to the Regional Office for funding.
- After funding is approved, the landowner and the Service co-sign a Wildlife Extension Agreement (minimum 10-year duration).
- Project installation begins.
- When the project is completed, the Service reimburses the landowner after receipts and other documentation are submitted according to the Wildlife Extension Agreement.

For more information regarding the Endangered Species and Partners for Fish and Wildlife programs, please contact the Cookeville Ecological Services Field Office at 931/528-6481 or visit their website at <http://cookeville.fws.gov>.

5.3. STATE PARTNERSHIPS.

5.3.A. TDEC Division of Water Supply. The Source Water Protection Program, authorized by the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act, outline a comprehensive plan to achieve maximum public health protection. According to the plan, it is essential that every community take these six steps:

- 1) Delineate the drinking water source protection area
- 2) Inventory known and potential sources of contamination within these areas
- 3) Determine the susceptibility of the water supply system to these contaminants
- 4) Notify and involve the public about threats identified in the contaminant source inventory and what they mean to their public water system
- 5) Implement management measures to prevent, reduce or eliminate threats
- 6) Develop contingency planning strategies to deal with water supply contamination or service interruption emergencies (including natural disaster or terrorist activities).

Source water protection has a simple objective: to prevent the pollution of the lakes, rivers, streams, and ground water (wells and springs) that serve as sources of drinking water before they become contaminated. This objective requires locating and addressing potential sources of contamination to these water supplies. There is a growing recognition that effective drinking water system management includes addressing the quality and protection of the water sources.

Source Water Protection has a significant link with the Watershed Management Program goals, objectives and management strategies. Watershed Management looks at the health of the watershed as a whole in areas of discharge permitting, monitoring and protection. That same protection is important to protecting drinking water as well. Communication and coordination with a multitude of agencies is the most critical factor in the success of both Watershed Management and Source Water Protection.

Watershed management plays a role in the protection of both ground water and surface water systems. Watershed Management is particularly important in areas with karst (limestone characterized by solution features such as caves and sinkholes as well as disappearing streams and spring), since the differentiation between ground water and surface water is sometimes nearly impossible. What is surface water can become ground water in the distance of a few feet and vice versa.

Source water protection is not a new concept, but an expansion of existing wellhead protection measures for public water systems relying on ground water to now include surface water. This approach became a national priority, backed by federal funding, when the Safe Drinking Water Act amendments (SDWA) of 1996 were enacted. Under this Act, every public drinking water system in the country is scheduled to receive an assessment of both the sources of potential contamination to its water source of the threat these sources may pose by the year 2003 (extensions were available until 2004). The assessments are intended to enhance the protection of drinking water supplies

within existing programs at the federal, state and local levels. Source water assessments were mandated and funded by Congress. Source water protection will be left up to the individual states and local governments without additional authority from Congress for that progression.

Tennessee's Wellhead Protection Rules were revised as of October 29, 2005 to include requirements for similar protection for public water systems using surface water sources under the heading of Drinking Water Source Protection Rule (1200-5-1-.34) in addition to the previous requirements for wellhead protection for public water systems using ground water sources. The rule addresses surface or ground water withdrawals in the vicinity of public water sources as well as potential contaminant sources threatening public water sources to reflect the amended prohibitions in the 2002 Amendments to the Tennessee Safe Drinking Water Act, TCA 68-221-771. There are additional reporting requirements of potential contaminant source inventories and emergency response for the public water systems as well. The Division of Water Supply will be able to use the Drinking Water Source Protection Rule to work in complimentary fashion with the Division of Water Pollution Control and other Departmental agencies in activities to protect public water sources.

As a part of the Source Water Assessment Program, public water systems are evaluated for their susceptibility to contamination. These individual source water assessments with susceptibility analyses are available to the public at <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/dws> as well as other information regarding the Source Water Assessment Program and public water systems.

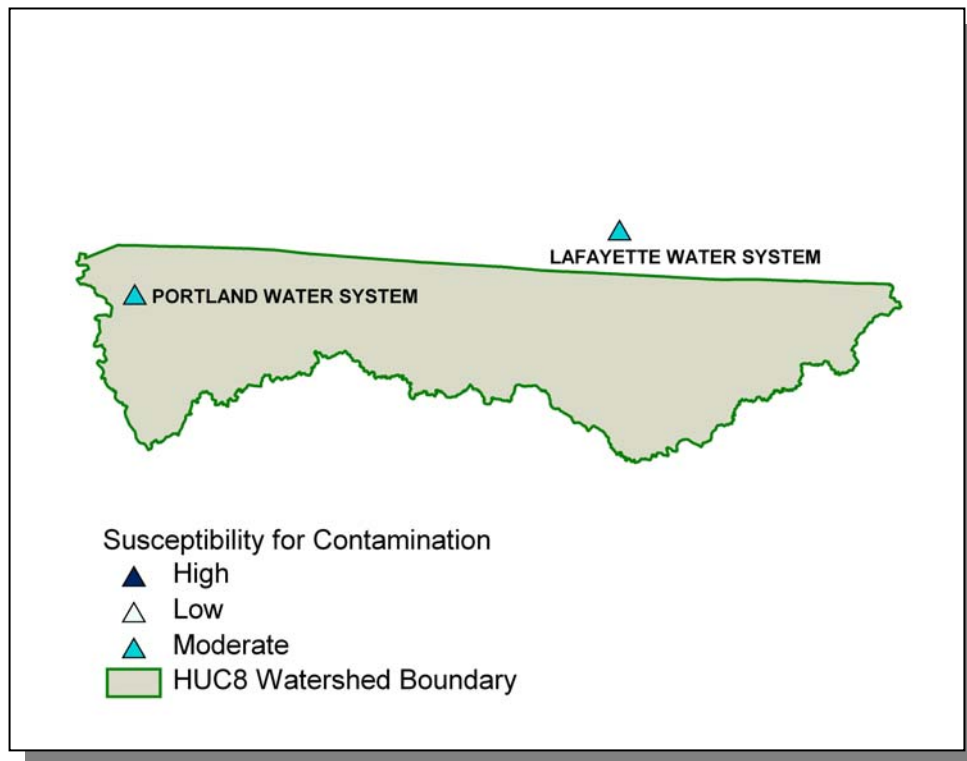


Figure 5-1. Susceptibility for Contamination in the Barren River Watershed.

For further discussion on ground water issues in Tennessee, the reader is referred to the Ground Water Section of the 305(b) Water Quality Report at <http://www.tdec.net/water.shtml>.

5.3.B. State Revolving Fund. TDEC administers the state's Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program. Amendment of the Federal Clean Water Act in 1987 created the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Program to provide low-interest loans to cities, counties, and utility districts for the planning, design, and construction of wastewater facilities. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awards annual capitalization grants to fund the program and the State of Tennessee provides a twenty-percent funding match. TDEC has awarded loans totaling approximately \$550 million since the creation of the SRF Program. SRF loan repayments are returned to the program and used to fund future SRF loans.

SRF loans are available for planning, design, and construction of wastewater facilities, or any combination thereof. Eligible projects include new construction or upgrading/expansion of existing facilities, including wastewater treatment plants, pump stations, force mains, collector sewers, interceptors, elimination of combined sewer overflows, and nonpoint source pollution remedies.

SRF loan applicants must pledge security for loan repayment, agree to adjust user rates as needed to cover debt service and fund depreciation, and maintain financial records that follow governmental accounting standards. SRF loan interest rates range from zero percent to market rate, depending on the community's per-capita income, taxable sales, and taxable property values. Most SRF loan recipients qualify for interest rates between 2 and 4 percent. Interest rates are fixed for the life of the term of the loan. The maximum loan term is 20 years or the design life of the proposed wastewater facility, whichever is shorter.

TDEC maintains a Priority Ranking System and Priority List for funding the planning, design, and construction of wastewater facilities. The Priority Ranking List forms the basis for funding eligibility determinations and allocation of Clean Water SRF loans. Each project's priority rank is generated from specific priority ranking criteria and the proposed project is then placed on the Project Priority List. Only projects identified on the Project Priority List may be eligible for SRF loans. The process of being placed on the Project Priority List must be initiated by a written request from the potential SRF loan recipient or their engineering consultant. SRF loans are awarded to the highest priority projects that have met SRF technical, financial, and administrative requirements and are ready to proceed.

Since SRF loans include federal funds, each project requires development of a Facilities Plan, an environmental review, opportunities for minority and women business participation, a State-approved sewer use ordinance and Plan of Operation, and interim construction inspections.

For further information about Tennessee's Clean Water SRF Loan Program, call (615) 532-0445 or visit their Web site at <http://www.tdec.net/srf>.

5.3.C. Tennessee Department of Agriculture. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture's Water Resources Section consists of the federal Section 319 Nonpoint Source Program and the Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund Program. Both of these are grant programs which award funds to various agencies, non-profit organizations, and universities that undertake projects to improve the quality of Tennessee's waters and/or educate citizens about the many problems and solutions to water pollution. Both programs fund projects associated with what is commonly known as "nonpoint source pollution."

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture's Nonpoint Source Program (TDA-NPS) has the responsibility for management of the federal Nonpoint Source Program, funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency through the authority of Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. This program was created in 1987 as part of the reauthorization of the Clean Water Act, and it established funding for states, territories and Indian tribes to address NPS pollution. Nonpoint source funding is used for installing Best Management Practices (BMPs) to stop known sources of NPS pollution, training, education, demonstrations and water quality monitoring. The TDA-NPS Program is a non-regulatory program, promoting voluntary, incentive-based solutions to NPS problems. The TDA-NPS Program basically funds three types of programs:

- **BMP Implementation Projects.** These projects aid in the improvement of an impaired waterbody, or prevent a non-impaired water from becoming listed on the 303(d) List.
- **Monitoring Projects.** Up to 20% of the available grant funds are used to assist the water quality monitoring efforts in Tennessee streams, both in the state's 5-year watershed monitoring program, and also in performing before-and-after BMP installation, so that water quality improvements can be verified. Some monitoring in the Barren River Watershed was funded under an agreement with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Nonpoint Source Program (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Assistance Agreement C99944674-04-0).
- **Educational Projects.** The intent of educational projects funded through TDA-NPS is to raise the awareness of landowners and other citizens about practical actions that can be taken to eliminate nonpoint sources of pollution to the waters of Tennessee.

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund Program (TDA-ARCF) provides cost-share assistance to landowners across Tennessee to install BMPs that eliminate agricultural nonpoint source pollution. This assistance is provided through Soil Conservation Districts, Resource Conservation and Development Districts, Watershed Districts, universities, and other groups. Additionally, a portion of the TDA-ARCF is used to implement information and education projects statewide, with the focus on landowners, producers, and managers of Tennessee farms and forests.

Participating contractors in the program are encouraged to develop a watershed emphasis for their individual areas of responsibility, focusing on waters listed on the Tennessee 303(d) List as being impaired by agriculture. Current guidelines for the TDA-ARCF are available. Landowners can receive up to 75% of the cost of the BMP as a reimbursement.

Since January of 1999, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environment and Conservation have had a Memorandum of Agreement whereby complaints received by TDEC concerning agriculture or silviculture projects would be forwarded to TDA for investigation and possible correction. Should TDA be unable to obtain correction, they would assist TDEC in the enforcement against the violator. More information on forestry BMPs is available at:

<http://tennessee.gov/agriculture/forestry/BMPs.pdf>.

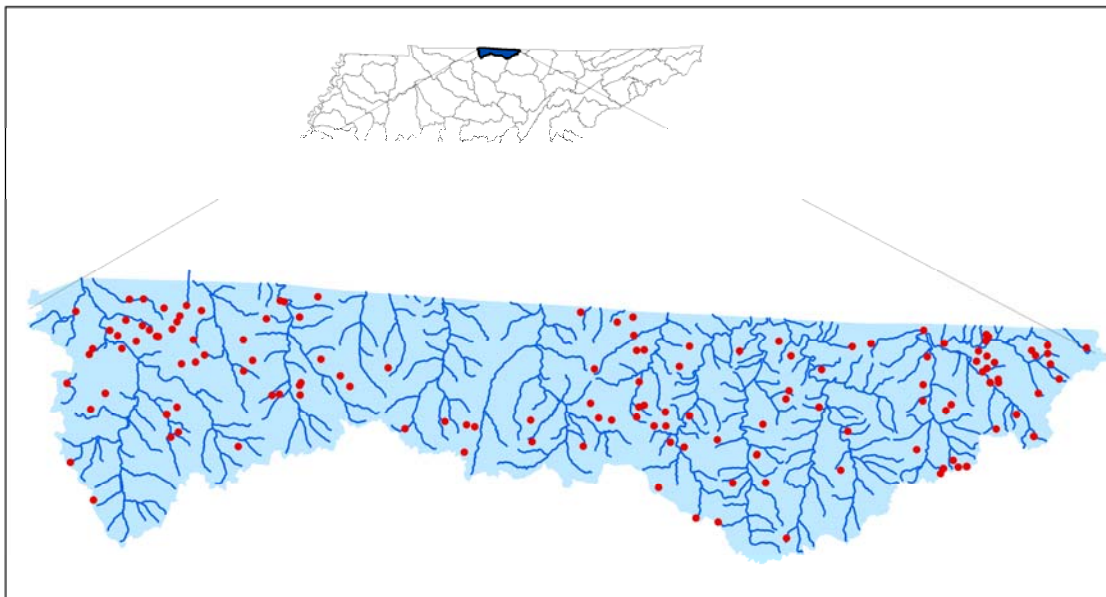


Figure 5-2. Location of BMPs installed from 1999 through 2005 in the Tennessee Portion of the Barren River Watershed with Financial Assistance from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's Nonpoint Source and Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund Grant Programs. More information is provided in Appendix V.

5.3.D. Kentucky Division of Water – Kentucky Watershed Management Framework. The Kentucky Watershed Management Framework is a dynamic, flexible structure for coordinating watershed management across the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The Watershed Management Framework is not a new program, but rather a way of coordinating existing programs and building new partnerships that will result in more effective and efficient management of the state's land and water resources. Inherent in the design of the Framework is the belief that many stakeholder groups and individuals must have ongoing opportunities to participate in the process of managing the abundant natural resources that characterize Kentucky's watersheds.

Benefits to the people of Kentucky include:

- Better information for decision making
- Increased ability to resolve complex water resource problems
- Improved coordination among governmental agencies
- More opportunities for citizens to get involved
- Increased ability to demonstrate results and benefits of environmental management
- More cost-effective use of public and private funds

Each major river basin in Kentucky is staffed with a Basin Coordinator. Basin Coordinators are staff assigned to serve as a liaison in a given basin management unit among the agencies, the local interests, and the resources concerns. Their job is to specialize in their watershed, to know what resources might be available to address the concerns, and facilitate the watershed process to implement plans that address the problems.

For more information about the KY Watershed Management Framework visit our website at <http://www.watersheds.ky.gov/>

Watershed Framework activities in the Barren River Watershed are coordinated through the Green/Tradewater River Basin Team. The Green/Tradewater River Basin Team is a multi-agency task force that meets regularly to help in development of monitoring strategies, education and outreach, prioritization of issues and watersheds within the basin, planning, and networking among technical staff and local leaders to apply agency resources to implement fixes. For more info about the Green/Tradewater River Basin Team contact Dale Reynolds, Green/Tradewater River Basin Coordinator at (270) 746-7475 or via email at dalen.Reynolds@ky.gov. The web address is http://www.watersheds.ky.gov/basins/green_tradewater/

Barren River HUC11s

West Fork Drakes Creek (05110002220)
Sulphur Fork Creek (05110002250)
Middle Fork Drakes Creek (05110002270)
Little Trammel Creek (05110002290)
Trammel Creek above Rough Cr. (05110002290)
Long Creek (05110002140)
Long Hungry Creek (05110002120)
Puncheon Creek (05110002100)
Salt Lick Creek (05110002080)
Barren River near Bowling Green (05110002030)
Line Creek (05110002020)

Geography. These Barren River sub-watersheds collectively drain 456 square miles in Kentucky. Several of the headwater tributaries of the Barren River originate in north central Tennessee and flow northwesterly into Monroe County in Kentucky. Along much of their length, these tributaries cut well into the Mississippian Limestone formations to form 130-190 feet deep gorges as they cross the state line. Tributaries of both Drakes Creek and Trammel Fork are topographically less dramatic, where they enter Simpson and Allen Counties in Kentucky from their Tennessee origins. This flow eventually joins the Barren River near Bowling Green, Kentucky. The terrain along the border is well dissected and well drained by entrenched streams with a more rolling topography downstream. There are large areas of karst topography in this watershed.

Waterways. There are hundreds of miles of Tennessee streams that drain into the Kentucky portion of these watersheds. Major tributaries to Barren River headwaters from Tennessee include Little Trace Creek, Trace Creek, Line Creek, Salt Lick Creek, Long Fork, White Oak Creek, Puncheon Creek, and Long Creek. Other major tributaries that cross into Kentucky to join the Barren River near Bowling Green include: Trammel Creek, Garrett Creek, Little Trammel Creek, Middle Fork Drakes Creek, Sulphur Fork Creek, Webb Branch, and West Fork of Drakes Creek.

There are two drinking water sources on these tributaries: City of Lafayette, Tennessee draws from the upper end of Barren River Lake and the City of Franklin, Kentucky draws from West Fork Drakes Creek.

Land Cover/Land Use. The watershed is mostly agricultural on the ridges and in the wider valleys. Dairy and poultry operations are common. Deciduous forest is common on the steeper slopes of the more entrenched streams valleys.

Agency Data Assessment. Several stream segments have been recently assessed and found to be fully supporting designated uses. These include: Thompson Branch, Sulphur Fork Creek, Little Trammel Creek, Trammel Creek, Puncheon Creek, Long Fork, Salt Lick Creek, Line Creek and West Fork of Drakes Creek from mile 23.4 to 32.8 (state line).

West Fork of Drakes Creek from mile 0.0 to 23.4 is listed on the 2004 303(d) list of impaired waters as partially supporting fish consumption due to PCB's. The source of the impairment is industrial point sources. Declining PCB levels in fish have resulted in downgrading of this stream segment from not supporting to partially supporting.

Barren River from mile 110.0 to 124.3 is listed on the 2004 303(d) list of impaired waters as not supporting primary contact recreation due to pathogens. The source of the pathogens is unknown. This same segment was determined to be fully supporting for aquatic life

Watershed Efforts in the Barren River. No sub watersheds in the Barren River Watershed were selected by the Green/Tradewater River Basin Team as a priority watershed for watershed planning.

5.4. LOCAL INITIATIVES.

5.4.A. The Central Basin RC&D Council. Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) is a program of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, which is administered at the local level by a non-profit council that is representative of the established area with the assistance of a Federal Coordinator. The Central Basin RC&D area was designated in January of 2002. The Council covers Davidson, Rutherford, Sumner, Trousdale, Williamson & Wilson counties in the Middle Tennessee area. The area is named for the geologic feature known as the Central or Nashville Basin which makes up the majority of the areas land mass with the remainder being part of the Highland Rim.

The Mission of the Central Basin RC&D Council is to promote the wise utilization of natural, cultural and other resources creating managed and sustainable growth that will improve the overall quality of life. The Vision of the Council is to create a diverse, cooperative, productive and effective working atmosphere that will identify and address needs and opportunities.

The RC&D Council works with local government, communities and individuals to make improvements by combining natural resource conservation with economic and social benefits.

5.4.B. The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The Tennessee State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), formerly known as the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS), was developed by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency with assistance from The Nature Conservancy in 2005. Congress mandated that each state and territory in the United States develop a SWAP as a requirement for continued receipt of federal State Wildlife Grant funding. These plans require the completion of 8 key elements of wildlife planning: 1) a list of animal species of greatest conservation need, 2) information about the distribution and abundance of species targets, 3) locations and relative conditions of key habitats, 4) descriptions of problems affecting target species and their habitats, 5) descriptions of conservation actions and priorities for conserving target species and habitats, 6) details for monitoring target species, conservation actions, and adaptive management, 7) discussion of plans to review the SWAP at specific intervals, and 8) information about coordination and implementation of the SWAP with major stakeholders. In Tennessee, the SWAP was integrated into a spatial model using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and other database technology. Priority aquatic, terrestrial, and subterranean areas for conservation were identified across the state. Priorities were determined in the GIS model based upon relative differences in species rarity, population viability, and potential mobility of species across habitat units. Priority problems affecting species and needed conservation actions are detailed across each region of the state. For complete information about the Tennessee SWAP, please visit <http://www.state.tn.us/twra/wildlife/cwcs/cwcsindex.html> to read or download the full report.

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5.4.C. Hull-York Lakeland Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council.

The RC&D Council mission is to *“Provide leadership to local communities to improve quality of life and conserve natural resources by organizing partners and facilitating technical and financial assistance resources”*.

Hull-York Lakeland RC&D Council covers 14-counties of the Upper Cumberland area. These counties are: Macon, Clay, Pickett, Fentress, Overton, Jackson, Smith, DeKalb, Putnam, Cumberland, White, Van Buren, Warren and Cannon. Recreation in this area is dependant on a high standard of water quality. The main recreational attractions in the RC&D area are Dale Hollow Lake, Center Hill Lake, Cordell Hull Lake, and the scenic trout waters of the Caney Fork River. These resources attract large numbers of visitors to the area each year, and Hull-York Lakeland therefore has a vested interest in insuring the water quality of its watersheds.

Hull-York Lakeland RC&D Council has many local, state, federal and private partners with similar interests in the RC&D area. These partners join forces to engage in programs and projects that help individual land users and communities improve and conserve the natural resources, and engage in projects that enhance community and economic development activities. Hull-York Lakeland was the first RC&D area authorized by USDA in the state of Tennessee, and one of the first in the nation. Hull-York Lakeland was authorized in 1966.

Past projects have included Cane Creek Park and Lake in Putnam County, Camp Discovery in Jackson County, farmers markets in several counties, and emergency services consolidation projects. Current projects include a 319(h) grant for development of a watershed management plan in the Post Oak Creek Watershed. This watershed is 16,000+ acres and has been identified on the Tennessee 303(d) list of impaired waters as not meeting intended uses due to agriculture. The RC&D Council's goal is to develop a plan that identifies needs and problems in the watershed in order to have it removed from the 303(d) list, and then submit a project for funding practices that address those needs and problems.

Hull-York Lakeland RC&D Council has received a grant from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture – Agriculture Resources Conservation Fund (TDA – ARCF) with which they have purchased a tree planter in order to promote tree planting in riparian corridors to improve and enhance water quality. The Council has also received grants from TDA-ARCF, TWRA, and Quail Unlimited in order to purchase a Native Warm Season Grass No-Till Drill. This drill was purchased in May 2006 to promote the planting of Native Warm Season Grasses in the Upper Cumberland Area to create and enhance wildlife habitat, as well as establish buffers and field borders to improve water quality.

In 2006 Hull-York Lakeland has so far received \$108,442 in direct grants, and has assisted communities in the receipt of \$445,692. These funds are being used to address water quality and community development issues. For more information about Hull-York Lakeland RC&D Council contact Jeff Sanders at (931) 528-6472, ext. 110, or jeff.sanders@tn.usda.gov. You can also go to the council's website at: <http://www.hylrcd.org>.